

## LISTING OF CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Amended) A process for preparing immobilized nano-sized metal particles comprising treating wet fungal mycelia of *Verticillium* (AAT-TS-4) with a metal ion solution at temperature in the range of 15 to 40°C for a period in the range of 2 to 120 hours, separating the biomass to obtain the immobilized nano-sized metal particles deposited on to the surface of the fungal cells.
2. (Original) A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the wet fungal mycelia is obtained by growing the *Verticillium* (AAT-TS-4) in a culture medium for a period of 2 to 120 hours at temperature ranging between 15-40°C under aseptic conditions, separating the biomass by centrifugation, washing several times with sterile water, and then incubating the whole reaction mixture at 15 to 40°C and atmospheric pressure.
3. (Original) A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the metal ion solution is obtained by dissolving metal salts of group IB-VIIIB metals in water.
4. (Original) A process as claimed in claim 3 wherein the metal is selected from

the group consisting of Au, Ag, Pd, Pt, Ni, Rh and Ru.

5. (Original) A process as claimed in claim 3 wherein the metal salts are selected from the group consisting of halides, nitrates and carbonates.

6. (Original) A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the metal ion solution is obtained by dissolving the acidic form of metals in water.

7. (Original) A process as claimed in claim 6 wherein the acidic form of the metal is selected from chloroauric acid and chloroplatinic acid.

8. (Original) A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the concentration of metal ions per gram of wet fungal mycelia is in the range of 10 to 200 mg metal ions per gram of wet fungal mycelia.

9. (Original) A process as claimed in claim 8 wherein the concentration of metal ions per gram of wet fungal mycelia is in the range of 10 to 100 mg metal ions per gram of wet fungal mycelia.

10. (Original) A process as claimed in claim 8 wherein the concentration of metal

ions per gram of wet fungal mycelia is in the range of 25 to 100 mg metal ions per gram of wet fungal mycelia.

11. (Original) A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the ratio of water to wet fungal mycelia is 100:1 (w/w).

12. (Original) A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the fungus *Verticillium* AAT-TS-4 is taken as whole cell as wet solid mass.

13. (Original) A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the reaction of the fungus and metal ion source in solution is carried out in water.

14. (Original) A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the incubation/reaction temperature is in the range of 15-40°C.

15. (Original) A process as claimed in claim 14 wherein the incubation/reaction temperature is in the range of 23-33°C.

16. (Original) A process as claimed in claim 14 wherein the incubation/reaction temperature is in the range of 25-29°C.